

A Quaker Living Wage Campaign – a living wage must pay enough to live on.



What action might Quakers take?

1. Let's get our own house in order.
 - a. Ask your Area Meeting Trustees to work to and apply for accreditation as a Living Wage Employer. Quaker organisations are already accredited. They are:
 - Religious Society of Friends (Quakers in Britain) *ie. Friends House & Swarthmoor Hall*
 - Quaker Service Northern Ireland
 - York AQM
 - Quaker Social Action London
 - Manchester and Warrington AQM
 - Lancaster Central and North AQM
 - Mid Thames AQM
 - South East Scotland AQM
 - Pendle Hill AQM
 - Woodbrooke
 - Notts and Derby AQM
 - Luton & Leighton AQM
 - Sheffield Central Meeting House
 - Thaxted AQM



An initiative of
Lancaster
Quaker Meeting

Other parts of our Quaker Community currently seeking accreditation:

- Bristol AQM
 - Peterborough and Cambridge AQM
 - Southern Marches AQM
 - West Wiltshire and East Somerset AQM
 - The Quaker Tapestry
- b. If you are an employer is your business an accredited Living Wage Employer?
 - c. If an employee is your place of work a Living Wage employer?

2. Join the Lancaster Quaker Meeting campaign to persuade the Co-operative Group to pay The Living Wage. Many Friends are members of the Co-op. If every Friend who is a member wrote we could be a very powerful voice. Or approach another business of your choice; remember local branches have no control over wage rates we have to approach the head office. In 2017 we learnt that the Co-op has started to talk with the Living Wage Foundation so we need to keep up the pressure.
 - Run a letter writing workshop using the templates provided.
www.lancsquakers.org.uk/livingwagecampaign.php
 - Run an embroidery session. Embroider messages on handkerchiefs saying:
People must be able to LIVE on a LIVING WAGE
Grossly Different Pay rates
Why do we have food banks in a rich country?
Send them to the Board members of the Co-op or other organisations you are approaching.
3. Ask Friends who are members of other Mutual Businesses to write to them or attend the AGM to ask questions about payment of The Living Wage and point out the benefits to business of paying it. The letter templates can be easily adapted.
4. Witness in your town/city centre during Living Wage Week November 2 - 8 and/or the run up to Christmas giving out leaflets to raise awareness to the fact that the 'national living wage' is not a real Living Wage and that retailers should pay The Living Wage now.
5. Use the posters and information on the website to develop a display in your meeting house for Friends and other users to read.
6. Check if your City/Town/County Council pays the Living Wage.
 - If they do look up on The Living Wage Foundation website to see if they are accredited or they may use the Living Wage Logo on their documents. We rang Lancaster Council HR department to ask.
 - If not paying it approach councillors and work with them to get it implemented.
 - If paying it but not accredited ask if they are working with the people to whom they outsource to build into contracts that their employees when engaged on Council activity will be paid the Living Wage. This can be phased in with milestones agreed with the Living Wage Foundation.

7. Write to the charities which Friends belong to who are not Living Wage accredited employers such as The Royal Horticultural Society; National Trust or a charity relevant to your area asking the same questions.

If you join us do let us know what you are doing, send us photographs, stories you hear and information about contact with organisations you make so we can record our actions in the Quaker Living Wage Campaign newsletters on our website page.